



**HAWAII**

STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

No. 1 Capitol District Building  
250 South Hotel Street  
Second Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Governor  
Josh B. Green

Comptroller  
Keith A. Regan

Commissioners  
Susan Browne  
Nalani Brun  
Randall Fujiki  
Jill Kuramoto  
Michael Marshall  
Ronald Michioka

Interim Executive Director  
Karen A. Ewald

Telephone  
808.586.0300

Fax  
808.586.0308

Website  
[sfca.hawaii.gov](http://sfca.hawaii.gov)

**TESTIMONY OF  
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
February 22, 2023 Conference Room 308 & Videoconference at 2:30PM  
H.B. 473 H.D.1  
RELATING TO THE CREATIVE WORKFORCE**

Chair Yamashita and members of the Committee, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), is pleased to offer testimony in **SUPPORT** of H.B. 473 H.D.1.

Hawaii's creative arts workforce of culture and arts organizations, individual artists and cultural practitioners are an important and unique resource of the State's economy and community. SFCA recognizes the importance of the creative workforce and provides support through granting programs, as funding permits. An appropriation for Creative Workforce grants through the SFCA can have a significant impact on individuals in the creative workforce.

Creative workforce grants will provide support towards a living wage in the regional labor market where the work is performed by the creative worker. Grants to support creative workers in communities who face barriers to participation and employment in creative work as a result of a low level of public and private investment in the arts, limited exposure to art programming, or other social or economic barriers. The arts or culture organization employing the creative workers' mission/programming serves a population that is specifically impacted by poverty, are underserved, and/or neighboring islands. The work of the creative worker must support arts and culture projects/programming that is publicly available and accessible.

An appropriation of \$500,000 in General Funds towards the current framework of SFCA's Biennium Grants to organizations in the community already doing this important work would help grow the State's creative arts workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:48:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Wong	Hawaii Youth Symphony	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Youth Symphony strongly **supports** this bill, in recognition and appreciation for the work of professionalized music educators, teaching artists, and musicians who are the lifeblood and workforce that inspire our young people to develop to their fullest potential. Creative workers such as those supported by these workforce grants are absolutely necessary towards the inspiration and teaching of our youth. We owe it to young people to provide opportunities through which they can grow, and it is therefore our civic and moral obligation to ensure that they can be guided and mentored by passionate creative workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 10:14:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Pollock	Ebb & Flow Arts	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is testimony to support the Creative Workforce Grant program.

The pandemic hit the arts community very hard. According to one report, “nowhere has the effect been more direct, deep, and immediate than on the performing arts.”

The Creative Workforce Grant program will help revive the Arts in Hawai'i. Once again the Arts will be a powerful driving force for our economy. According to an authoritative report, “the production of arts and cultural goods (pre-pandemic) and services in the U.S. added **4.3 percent** directly to the nation's GDP, for a total approaching a trillion dollars (**\$919.7 billion**). This amount is greater than the value added by such industries as construction, transportation and warehousing, mining, and agriculture.”

According to another study, each \$1 in state arts funds leverages over \$3 in state and local revenue.

Einstein said that intelligence is not measured by knowledge but by **imagination**. Vital Creative Artists are essential for a thriving, spiritually healthy community. The Arts cultivate, inspire, induce, stimulate, and foster our **IMAGINATION**. For example, the Honolulu Rail Transit project has languished for many years not primarily because of funding, domain, and political issues. Its failure of completion is because of a fundamental lack of imagination. We need the Arts to help us dream and then act upon our dreams for the future. The stronger our imagination, the more detailed, complex, proactive and powerful will be our vision.

Please help re-vitalize our state after the pandemic with the Creative Workforce Grant program. Help fight the stifling, crass commodification and corporatization of our lives by your support of non-conforming, independent minded artists in our community. Their art, music, dance, plays, and poetry enable our imagination to reach its full glory!

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 10:38:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Becky Lind	Hana Arts	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing on behalf of Hana Arts. We provide life-enhancing and income generating programs to the rural East Maui.

**WE ARE IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL.**

The arts are incredibly beneficial to our community, the state, and the world in general.

Please support this bill.

Becky Lind

Executive Director

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:08:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denise Karabinus	Honolulu Printmakers	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Honolulu Printmakers** support the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Our artist and community benefit and thrive as a result of the funds that the State Foundation is responsible for distributing. We have been in Honolulu supporting artist for nearly 100 years. These funds support living wages and art programming that is free and open to the public including exhibitions and out reach classes for kids in our downtown community. We support younger artists with mentorship and volunteer training programs. Our street front facing window shows arts that is free and available to all. Creative vibrancy in our downtown community flushes out the drugs and crime that plague our area. Keep funding that focuses on and supports the arts.

Denise Karabinus

Executive Director

Honolulu Printmakers

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:36:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Evan Anderson	Hawai'i Arts Alliance	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the establishment of a Creative Workforce Grant program in Hawaii. This program will be a critical lifeline for nonprofit arts and culture organizations across the state, providing much-needed financial support for the living wage of creative workers within these organizations, as well as individual artists.

The arts are a vital component of our state's cultural and economic identity. They bring people together, foster creativity, and inspire innovation. But the pandemic has hit our arts and culture sector hard, with many organizations struggling to stay afloat. This grant program will help these organizations retain and attract talented creative professionals and make the arts a viable career choice, ensuring that the arts continue to thrive in our communities.

I commend the Legislature for recognizing the importance of the arts and for taking action to support our creative workforce. The Creative Workforce Grant program will help to ensure that Hawaii's arts and culture organizations as well as our independent artists can continue to provide the enriching experiences that make Hawai'i such a special place to live and visit.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 1:17:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Train	Glass Fusion Collective, Hawaii Craftsmen, Hawaii Handweavers Hui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to support HB473. My name is Elizabeth Train and I am a board member of three local creative nonprofit organizations. I am President of the Glass Fusion Collective, Secretary of Hawaii Craftsmen and the Outreach coordinator for the Hawaii Handweavers Hui. All three of these organizations sponsor classes, workshops and exhibits. All three would benefit greatly from the proposed awarding of “\$25,000 grants to support the living wage of one or more salaried staff or contractual personal in a creative worker role within the organization.” All three organizations are currently run by hard working volunteer artists because the organizations are unable to afford to hire people to run the programs. It is very hard for artists in Hawaii to find jobs and earn a living wage. The support offered by the State Foundation on Culture and Arts grants and programs is vital to the health of artists and art programs in the state. Thank you for supporting this bill.

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 1:19:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keiko Kajiwara	Sounding Joy Music Therapy, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear House Committee Members of Finance,

Our organization strongly supports this bill. We serve most vulnerable populations through music therapy in Hawaii. The COVID-19 pandemic affected our creative workforce, music therapists, tremendously as our clients are mostly elderly and people with disabilities. Due to the nature of singing and making music, which would elevate the risk of infection, our operation was in complete halt for a while. As a result, we had to furlough all the workers. Now, we are back in full swing of rebuilding our workforce, hiring music therapists, which need a financial support exactly like this. Please consider passing this bill, which will not only help the workers, but also so many people in need in Hawaii. Mahalo.



**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 7:45:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Megan Ha'amauliola Makua Aiona	State of HI DOE - Nawahi	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS. Appropriates funds to the state foundation on culture and the arts **creative workforce grant** program for the awarding of grants to eligible nonprofit arts and culture organizations to support the living wage of creative workers. Organizations like ours, Māhu'ilani under Hawaiian Medium Education at Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u can help to benefit many projects, proposals, and artisitic endeavors.

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:10:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carlynn M Wolfe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm so proud of our State's continue support of arts and artists. This bill will continue that legacy and encourage working artists.

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:29:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deb Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:48:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tayler Cobb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the artist community on Oahu I strongly support this bill as there is very few recourses for up and coming and full time artists. This would give more opportunity and support for art in general. What would life be without art? We need to continue uplifting the crafts and expressions that make Hawaii and the world beautiful.

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 3:28:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Meredith Buck and I am a lauhala weaver and kumu ulana lauhala living in Hōlualoa, Hawai'i. I am writing to share my support for HB473 HD1.

Last year I applied for the culture fellowship with HSFCA, which would have provided \$25,000 to eight different individuals and organizations engaged in culture and arts work throughout Hawai'i. I was hopeful to gain this financial support so that I could have the resources I need to be able to teach my 30+ weaving students free of charge. However, the grant was canceled when the funds were made unavailable. Nonetheless I have carried on with my weaving work, teaching between 1 and 3 days every week since August. But to be honest with you, I've lost a lot of conviction in terms of being able to do this long-term because financial support is contentious and unreliable. So I am instead planning a career change. If the HSFCA cultural fellowship had been available (granted I be selected), I could have achieved far more for my students and community than I am right now. For this reason, and for the benefit of all the other talented artists and cultural practitioners that make Hawai'i so special, I ask that HB473 be passed.

Mahalo for your time,

Meredith Buck

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 11:58:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Evelyn Aczon Hao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts are so important to all. We need to keep the arts alive by supporting our arts workers. This bill help to keep the culture and the arts of Hawaii thriving. Thank you

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:03:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 12:20:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Minister, Hector Hoyos (aka) SisterFace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an artist, I support this bill loudly. I hope that number that is blank you all decide maybe will change per year because of the cost-of-living. I honestly have to say this a lot of artist are not a nonprofit organization. Most all of them actually are not or don't even know how to become a nonprofit there's not much help out there for Artist to become a nonprofit in the steps that it takes to become a nonprofit so they're eligible to be able to get this. You all should sometimes go on raw talent and people may be a process an application for an artist that is not Part of a nonprofit this is a fact there are many many many many many nonprofits by the way in our state of Hawaii that are good, but they practice more of a nepotism type feeling when it comes to giving out their money and grants to other people in their group meaning they keep it within their group. They don't let the grant or the money or the source flow outwardly , we need to make sure if you all are going to support Artist that it's not actually just nonprofits there should be a legit way for an artist to fill out an application that could allow them to receive a grant based on their education or their where they live how much there you know some formula that helps you all help other artists that are outside the scope of a nonprofit I can't stress this enough to you all being an artist from Washington DC Baltimore, Philadelphia New York City traveled the world live here only here since 2005, and I think that Kakaako and the group down there at salt and Kakaako has been the best with Artist, but we have a whole entire chain of islands with artists that need help from the state government and it shouldn't be hard for them to get it if they're not a nonprofit and furthermore, I have to say that I hope that the committee members all across the board support your local artist they are the ones that make the island chime give the island color give us something to talk about. It's not just people in the Lotta hotel lobbies or down in Chinatown on first Fridays or the festival at night Time there are artists that are very talented that do not know how to get funds or receive funds to help them, survive, and produce the art to give them a living or you all should even really think way outside the box and actually have a state program that is more like the farmers market program but that will allow Artist to set up once a week under a state guided program. That way you all stop nepotism you give all artist a chance even if you're not giving them grants, you're giving them the ability and the place to sell a product in their art once or twice a month in a location that all artists also can come together and to build upon that making it more of an event for our tourism and local people, are you are thinking outside the box down there like four the ARTS?